

NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Dr. Ephraim Zuroff and the Simon Wiesenthal Center for their efforts to track down the last Nazi war criminals from World War II. Their work is enormously important, both in bringing the guilty to justice and preventing future acts of genocide. The statute of limitations does not—must not—expire on crimes against humanity. Earlier this year, I introduced the World War II War Crimes Accountability Act with Sen. NELSON, which I hope will help Dr. Zuroff and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in their noble effort.

The barbarity of those crimes still echoes today, more than 63 years after the end of the war. June 28 of this year, for example, marked the 94th birthday of Dr. Aribert Heim, the second-most wanted Nazi war criminal still believed to be at large. Dr. Heim, a former SS concentration camp doctor, was nicknamed “Dr. Death” for his brutal and sadistic experiments on camp inmates. At Mauthausen, the camp where he committed his worst crimes, Dr. Heim was known for murdering inmates by injecting toxins directly into their hearts.

Unfortunately, despite the particularly heinous nature of Dr. Heim’s crimes, investigators into Heim’s whereabouts can still face official obstructionism. Germany, for example, is one of the few countries that still have an active Nazi-hunting unit. However, this team’s efforts have been impeded by the repeated refusals of the presiding German judge to allow the police task force sufficient investigative latitude. Such procedures, like wiretaps on suspected Heim associates, are granted in murder cases in Germany—just not, apparently, in mass-murder cases like Dr. Heim. This is this not the only instance of German bureaucratic obstructionism, which have been carefully monitored by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Correspondingly, in the center’s 2007 Annual Report on Worldwide Investigation and Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals, Germany received a failing grade—its only failing grade since the report was first published in 2001. The German government should do its utmost to reverse this pattern before it becomes a trend.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center launched Operation: Last Chance in 2002, to identify and assist in the prosecution of the remaining Nazi war criminals still at large. Dr. Zuroff, who has been leading this effort, should be highly commended for his outstanding efforts in bringing the most guilty Nazis to justice.

Even today, the crimes of Heim and the Nazi regime strain our understanding of hate. Hitler’s Germany today is remembered only for its brutality, its mantra of genocide, and its culture of racism. And those last Nazis, who are waiting out their last days under the coming twilight, must not be allowed to go quietly into the night, as

did too many of their victims. For the souls that were lost, and even more for those that remain, there must be justice. I commend Dr. Zuroff and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in the highest possible terms, and urge the United States Government to do all it can to help them in their cause.

THE MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor on many occasions to highlight a separate violent, hate-motivated crime that has occurred in our country.

In the early morning of July 13, 2008, three gay men were dining at a late-night pizza restaurant in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of Washington, DC, when they were verbally assaulted by five men. The two groups allegedly exchanged heated words at the restaurant before the three gay men left and began to walk home. But the five men followed them in pursuit. According to the police report, the assailants continued to hurl anti-gay epithets and later physically attacked the three men, hospitalizing two of them. Police have not yet apprehended the suspects, but the investigation continues. Advisory neighborhood commissioner Jack Jacobsen, a friend of one of the victims, says the three men were shaken by the incident and have decided not to disclose their identities to news sources.

I believe that the Government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

REMEMBERING RAIDER 21 CREW MEMBERS

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I stand to recognize the six Air Force B-52 crew members of Raider 21 who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. I would like take a few moments to honor their courage and heroism.

The crew was based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana and was deployed to Guam with the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron as part of the U.S. military’s continuous bomber presence mission in the Pacific. The unarmed bomber crashed Monday, July 21, during a swing around the island as part of Guam Liberation Day celebrations, marking the day when the U.S. military arrived to retake control of the island from Japan during World

War II. The B-52 had been scheduled to conduct a flyover in a parade. The six crew members assigned to the 2nd Bomb Wing included MAJ Christopher M. Cooper, 33, aircraft commander; MAJ Brent D. Williams, 37, navigator; CPT Michael K. Dodson, 31, copilot; 1LT. Joshua D. Shepherd, 25, navigator; 1LT. Robert D. Gerren, 32, electronic warfare officer; and COL George Martin, 51, flight surgeon, who also was the deputy commander of 36th Medical Group at Anderson Air Force Base.

B-52s have been the backbone of the U.S. military’s manned strategic bomber force for more than four decades, used for missions from attacks to ocean surveillance. They are capable of dropping or launching the widest array of weapons in the U.S. inventory, including cluster bombs and precision guided missiles. B-52s were first placed into service in 1955, and 93 remain in the Air Force’s fleet. The Air Force has been rotating B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers through Guam since 2004 to boost the U.S. security presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Search operations continue in the Pacific Ocean sadly, they are primarily for the recovery of debris that may aid in the investigation of the crash. The 8th Air Force Museum in Shreveport, LA, has created a memorial to the crew members that will be at the museum for 30 days. Those wishing to express condolences and pay tribute to the crew are welcome to sign a remembrance book. The book will be shared with the families and eventually presented to the 20th Bomb Squadron. In addition to the book, the memorial consists of framed photographs of each of the crew members, six pairs of flight boots and six flight helmets as well as other items from the 2nd Bomb Wing.

There is no doubt July 21 was a tragic day, not only for the families of the fallen crew members but for the B-52 family, the community, and this Nation. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of these airmen and our hearts grieve for their loss.

Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their devotion and service to our Nation.

HONORING JIM MAGAGNA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Jim Magagna, 2008 inductee into the Wyoming Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Jim Magagna has spent much of his life fighting for Wyoming agriculture interests at the local, regional and national level. A third generation sheep rancher from southwest Wyoming, Jim is the president and manager of Magagna Bros, Inc.

Jim has a long history of service to Wyoming’s ranchers and farmers. He has served as president for agricultural groups including the Wyoming Wool Growers Association and the National